



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
COWELL RANCH / JOHN MARSH STATE HISTORIC PARK PRELIMINARY
GENERAL PLAN**

Date: October 25, 2010

To: All Interested Agencies, Organizations and Persons

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. California State Parks is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park (SHP), Contra Costa County, California.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

California State Parks' Diablo Vista District and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department have developed a Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR for Cowell Ranch / John Marsh SHP (the Park) in accordance with Public Resources Code §5002.2 referencing General Plan guidelines and §21000 et seq. concerning CEQA. The purpose of the General Plan is to guide future development activities and management objectives at the Park.

Cowell Ranch / John Marsh SHP is currently not open to the public and has not had a General Plan prepared to date. The Park was classified as a State Historic Park by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in April 2007. The Park encompasses over 3,600 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and important cultural features, including the historic John Marsh house. Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as The Trust for Public Land and other public entities, Cowell Ranch / John Marsh SHP is one of California's newest state parks. The Park provides an additional link in over 81,000 acres of contiguous open space within the region. This park is important not only for the potential visitor recreation opportunities but for its open space values and ecological diversity including wildlife habitat, native plant communities and a rich array of pre-historic and landscape-based cultural resources as well as the history of John Marsh and his influence on the region. The General Plan provides a long term vision for the Park as well as a strategy for the rehabilitation of the John Marsh house and opportunities for recreation and long term resource management. As part of the General Plan approval process, the California State Park and Recreation Commission will also select a name for the Park.

The General Plan includes a current evaluation of existing conditions as well as resource and management opportunities and constraints, a plan for the Park's

resources and facilities in the form of goals and guidelines, designation and description of management zones and environmental analysis of the proposed preferred alternative.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft EIR is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning Monday, October 25, 2010 and ending Thursday, December 9, 2010.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be postmarked or submitted by email no later than Thursday, December 9, 2010 to the following address:

Steve Bachman, Acting District Superintendent
Diablo Vista District
845 Casa Grande Road
Petaluma, CA 94954
sbachman@parks.ca.gov

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR may be reviewed online at <http://parks.ca.gov>. Click on General Plans under the Park Management tab and then go to "General Plans and Classification Actions in Progress." Hard copies of the document are also available at the following locations during normal business hours:

California State Parks
Diablo Vista District
845 Casa Grande Road
Petaluma, CA 94954

Brentwood Public Library
104 Oak Street
Brentwood, CA 94513

PUBLIC MEETING: A public meeting to present the proposed project's preferred alternative and environmental analysis has been scheduled for:

Thursday, November 4, 2010
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
City of Brentwood
Senior Activity Center
193 Griffith Lane
Brentwood, CA 94513

Representatives of California State Parks and the City of Brentwood will be present at this meeting and will be available to discuss the project proposal, its potential environmental effects, and proposed mitigation.